

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a hand held swinging athletic contact making article having an impact end and a handle connected to said impact end, the improvement being in a gripping cover mounted on and around said handle for minimizing sting when said handle is held and, said gripping cover comprising a multi-layer laminate, said laminate including an inner layer mounted around said handle, said inner layer being made from an elastomer material having high energy absorption and vibration damping characteristics, said laminate further including an exposed outer layer disposed outwardly of said inner layer, said outer layer being made of a material having a high coefficient of friction and being pliable, and said laminate further including force dissipating material which has the characteristics of absorbing and redirecting vibrational energy.

2. The article of claim 1 wherein said outer layer material is an elastomer having the characteristics of high energy absorption and vibration damping.

3. The equipment of claim 2 wherein said inner layer has a durometer reading which is no higher than said outer layer.

4. The article of claim 3 wherein said outer layer has a Shore Class A durometer of between 25 and 42 and said inner layer has a Shore Class A durometer of between 10 and 42.

5. The article of claim 3 wherein said force dissipating material is incorporated in and is part of at least one of said inner layer and said outer layer.

6. The article of claim 5 wherein said force dissipating material is in the form of aramid fibers/particles distributed in said at least one of said inner layer and said outer layer.

7. The article of claim 3 wherein said force dissipating material is a separate layer between said inner layer and said outer layer.

8. The article of claim 7 wherein said force dissipating material is of open mesh form.

9. The article of claim 7 wherein said force dissipating material is discontinuous in form.

10. The article of claim 9 wherein said discontinuous force dissipating material is in the form of a plurality of spaced strands/fibers.

11. The article of claim 7 wherein said force dissipating material is an aramid material.

12. The article of claim 1 wherein said gripping cover is in the form of a sleeve.

13. The article of claim 12 wherein said article is a baseball bat.

14. The article of claim 13 wherein said baseball bat includes a knob at the end of said handle, and said gripping cover extending over said knob.

P  
O  
S  
T  
I  
C  
H  
A

15. The article of claim 14 wherein said sleeve extends from said knob toward said impact end over a length of at least 17 inches.
16. The article of claim 1 wherein said gripping cover is in the form of a tape wrapped around said handle.
17. The article of claim 1 wherein said article is a racquet.
18. The article of claim 1 wherein said article is a stick/club.
19. A sting minimizing grip for covering at least a portion of a handle of a hand held swinging athletic contact making article comprising a multi-layer laminate, said laminate including an inner layer for being mounted around the handle, said inner layer being made from an elastomeric material having high energy absorption and vibration damping characteristics, said laminate further including an exposed outer layer disposed outwardly of said inner layer, said outer layer being made of an elastomer material having a high coefficient of friction and being pliable, and said laminate further including force dissipating material which has the characteristic of absorbing and redirecting vibrational energy.
20. The grip of claim 19 wherein said outer layer has the characteristics of high energy absorption and vibration damping, said inner layer having a durometer reading which is no higher than the durometer reading of said

outer layer, and said force dissipating material being an aramid.

21. The grip of claim 20 wherein said force dissipating material is incorporated in and is part of at least one of said inner layer and said outer layer.
22. The grip of claim 20 wherein said force dissipating material is an intermediate layer separate and distinct from and disposed between said inner layer and said outer layer.
23. In a baseball bat having a barrel impact end extending from a handle with a knob at the end of the handle remote from the barrel impact end, the improvement being in a grip, said grip extending around said knob and said handle, said grip completely covering said knob and extending around said handle to a length of over twelve inches from the end of said handle toward said barrel, said grip being made of a material which dampens vibration, and said grip having a tacky exposed surface.
24. The bat of claim 23 wherein said grip material includes chopped fibers/particles.
25. In a hand held swinging athletic contact making article having an impact end and a handle connected to said impact end, the improvement being in a gripping cover mounted on and around said handle for minimizing sting when said handle is held and, said gripping cover comprising an elastomer layer mounted around said

handle, said elastomer layer being made from a material having high energy absorption and vibration damping characteristics, said gripping cover further including an exposed outer surface having a high coefficient of friction and being pliable, and said gripping cover further including force dissipating material which has the characteristics of absorbing and redirecting vibrational energy.

26. The article of claim 25 wherein said gripping cover is made from a single layer incorporating said force dissipating material within said single layer in the form of strands/fibers/particles.
27. The article of claim 25 wherein said force dissipating material is in the form of a layer separate from said elastomer layer.
28. The article of claim 25 wherein said force dissipating material is an aramid material.

*add a'*

::ODMA\MHODMA\CB;180876;1